

**We claim:**

1 1. A method for visualizing and navigating documents in a graphical user interface

2 comprising the steps of:

3 generating a summary view of at least one document containing instances of

4 search terms using a condensed abstract representation depicting a search

5 term density distribution;

6 triggering an enhancement of said summary view by cursor brushing; and

7 navigating to at least one segment of said document by selecting a corresponding

8 portion of said summary view.

1 2. The method of claim 1 comprising the further step of identifying said documents with

2 at least one search engine.

1 3. The method of claim 1 comprising the further step of generating document metadata

2 using at least one indexing tool.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said metadata includes at least one of: search terms,

2 textual transcript, results of a textual transcript search, results of a speaker change search,

3 results of a stress analysis, topic headings, results of a topic change search, results of a

4 speech transcript search, audio features, audio amplitude data, number of accesses to a

5 particular document segment.

1 5. The method of claim 3 wherein said generating step uses said document metadata to  
2 depict said search term density distribution.

1 6. The method of claim 3 wherein the physical dimensions of said summary view encode  
2 metadata values.

1 7. A system for visualizing and navigating documents in a graphical user interface  
2 comprising:

3 a summary view of at least one document containing instances of search terms

4 including a condensed abstract representation depicting a search term  
5 density distribution;

6 an enhancement of said summary view triggered by cursor brushing; and

7 at least one segment of said document navigated to by selecting a corresponding  
8 portion of said summary view.

1 8. The system of claim 7 wherein said graphical user interface is generated by at least  
2 one of: a digital computer, a personal digital assistant, a personal information manager, a  
3 cell phone microbrowser.

1 9. The system of claim 7 wherein said document comprises at least one of: a text file, an  
2 image file, a web page, an audio file, a video file.

1 10. The system of claim 7 wherein said document includes a collection of documents.

1 11. The system of claim 7 wherein said representation includes an array of cells having  
2 rows and columns corresponding to said search terms and said document segments.

1 12. The system of claim 11 wherein contents of a particular cell represent the presence  
2 and absence of search terms, and a frequency with which said search terms occur in the  
3 document segment corresponding to said cell, as an indication of document relevance.

1 13. The system of claim 7 wherein said enhancement includes the first several words  
2 from a particular corresponding document segment.

1 14. The system of claim 7 wherein said summary view is displayed in a modified version  
2 of said document.

1 15. The system of claim 7 wherein said enhancement includes a contextual snippet  
2 having said search term and a number of surrounding words.

1 16. The system of claim 7 wherein said summary view is displayed in a fold-out window  
2 above said document.

1 17. The system of claim 7 wherein said enhancement includes a hierarchy of said  
2 representations, with each subsequent representation in said hierarchy depicting  
3 information at an increased resolution.

1 18. The system of claim 7 wherein said document is a video file and said enhancement  
2 includes a hierarchy of said representations and at least one video frame.

1 19. The system of claim 7 wherein said document is a collection of video files and said  
2 enhancement includes individual video files from said collection.

1 20. The system of claim 7 wherein said document is collection of video files and said  
2 enhancement includes a hierarchy of said summary views, with a first layer in the  
3 hierarchy including information describing individual video files from said collection, and  
4 with a second layer in the hierarchy including at least one video frame from said  
5 individual video files.

1 21. The system of claim 7 wherein said document is a video file and said enhancement  
2 includes a storyboard having a number of video frames.

1 22. A system for visualizing and navigating documents in a graphical user interface

2 comprising:

3 means for generating a summary view of at least one document containing

4 instances of search terms using a condensed abstract representation

5 depicting a search term density distribution;

6 means for triggering an enhancement of said summary view by cursor brushing;

7 and

8 means for navigating to at least one segment of said document by selecting a

9 corresponding portion of said summary view.

1 23. A computer program product comprising a machine-readable medium having

2 computer-executable program instructions thereon including:

3 a first code means for generating a summary view of at least one document

4 containing instances of search terms using a condensed abstract

5 representation depicting a search term density distribution;

6 a second code means for triggering an enhancement of said summary view by

7 cursor brushing; and

8 a third code means for navigating to at least one segment of said document by

9 selecting a corresponding portion of said summary view.